

that's not fair. I believe those of us who've been elected have got a solemn obligation to tackle tough problems. I know that's what the American people expect.

I'm confident we can get something done. I really am. I don't care what all the naysayers say or the people that are so political they can't—they can't get out of their current mindset here in Washington. See, I believe when it's all said and done, the American people are going to start speaking. And louder and louder, they're going to say, "We got the problem with Social Security folks. Now we expect you in Washington to do something about it." And I'm ready to take the lead on it and continue to take the lead on it. There's no doubt in my mind I'm doing the right thing addressing this issue, and there's no doubt in my mind when Republicans and Democrats come together to solve this problem, a lot of good people are going to be saying, "You know what, I've done my duty for the American people."

Thanks for letting me come by to say hello. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:19 p.m. at the Capitol Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Gary Roden, 2005 national chairman, Carole Bionda, 2005 immediate past chair, and Kirk Pickarel, president and chief executive officer, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Janice R. Brown as United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit

June 8, 2005

I commend the Senate for voting to confirm Justice Janice Rogers Brown. During her tenure on the California Supreme Court and California Court of Appeal, Justice Brown has distinguished herself as a brilliant and fair-minded jurist who is committed to the rule of law. Justice Brown exemplifies the American dream of personal achievement and excellence, and she will be a great asset to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Remarks on the PATRIOT Act in Columbus, Ohio

June 9, 2005

Thank you all very much. Thank you. Please be seated. Thanks for the warm welcome. It's great to be back in Columbus, Ohio. I remind people that my grandfather was raised here in Columbus, Ohio. One time I reminded people when I was in Columbus that my grandfather was raised here, my dad's dad—my mother called me; she said, "Why didn't you tell them my father was raised in Dayton?" [Laughter] I said, "From this point forward I will, Mother." [Laughter] My dad's dad was raised in Columbus, and my mother's dad was raised in Dayton. [Laughter] It's nice to be back.

I want to thank you all for letting me come by the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. I appreciate what you do here. I appreciate the hard work that you put forth in order to train men and women to be on the front-line of serving our communities and our country. I appreciate the fact that these are tough times for those who wear the uniform. But you've got to understand that the men and women who wear the badge of peace—the peacekeepers, the people on the frontlines of keeping our community safe—have got the gratitude of the American people. On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for what you do.

And I appreciate my friend Attorney General Al Gonzales joining me today. Thanks for coming over to introduce me. Get back to work. [Laughter]

I want to thank Governor Taft joining us. Governor, I appreciate you being here.

I want to thank Senator Mike DeWine for joining us today. Proud you're here, Senator. Congressman Pat Tiberi—this is his district—Congressman, I appreciate you coming. He said, by the way, "Ohio State is in my district." He said, "You tell those Texas Longhorns"—[laughter]—I'm not going to tell them what you said. [Laughter] I appreciate Congressman Dave Hobson joining us as well.

I want to thank the State attorney general, Jim Petro, for joining us; U.S. Attorney Greg Lockhart. I want to thank Director Ken Morckel for joining us today. Thank you,

Ken, for being here. Paul McClellan, State and local officials, most of all, people who wear the uniform, I'm proud you're here.

Today when I landed at the airport, I met Dianne Garrett, who is with us today. Dianne has been a volunteer with the Whitehall Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association for 8 years. She represents thousands of people across our country who are working hand in glove with their local law enforcement to make the police stations work better. She's a part of the citizen corps. She's a part of the emergency response team in Whitehall community.

The reason I bring up people like Dianne is it's important for us to always remember that the great strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. The true strength of this country lies in the hearts of those who are willing to help volunteer to make our communities a more compassionate, decent, and safe place. If you want to serve Ohio, if you want to serve America, help feed the hungry, find shelter for the homeless, volunteer to help our law enforcement do their job. Love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself, and you're making a big contribution to America. Dianne, thank you for coming. Go ahead and stand up.

My most solemn duty as the President is to protect the American people. And I'm honored to share that responsibility with you. We have a joint responsibility. As sworn officers of the law, you're devoted to defending your fellow citizens. Your vigilance is keeping our communities safe, and you're serving on the frontlines of the war on terror. It's a different kind of war than a war our Nation was used to. You know firsthand the nature of the enemy. We face brutal men who celebrate murder, who incite suicide, and who would stop at nothing to destroy the liberties we cherish. You know that these enemies cannot be deterred by negotiations or concessions or appeals to reason. In this war, there's only one option, and that option is victory.

Since September the 11th, 2001, we have gone on the offensive against the terrorists. We have dealt the enemy a series of powerful blows. The terrorists are on the run, and we'll keep them on the run. Yet they're still active;

they're still seeking to do us harm. The terrorists are patient and determined, and so are we. They're hoping we'll get complacent and forget our responsibilities. Once again, they're proving that they don't understand our Nation. The United States of America will never let down its guard.

It's a long war, and we have a comprehensive strategy to win it. We're taking the fight to the terrorists abroad so we don't have to face them here at home. We're denying our enemies sanctuary by making it clear that America will not tolerate regimes that harbor or support terrorists. We're stopping the terrorists from achieving ideological victories they seek by spreading hope and freedom and reform across the broader Middle East. By advancing the cause of liberty, we'll lay the foundations for peace for generations to come.

And one of the great honors as the President is to be the Commander in Chief of a fantastic United States military, made fantastic by the quality and the character of the men and women who wear the uniform. Thank you for serving.

As we wage the war on terror overseas, we'll remember where the war began, right here on American soil. In our free and open society, there is no such thing as perfect security. To protect our country, we have to be right 100 percent of the time. To hurt us, the terrorists have to be right only once. So we're working to answer that challenge every day, and we're making good progress toward securing the homeland.

We've enhanced security at coastlines and borders and ports of entry, and we have more work to do. We've strengthened protections at our airports and chemical plants and highways and bridges and tunnels. And we got more work to do. We've made terrorism the top priority for law enforcement, and we've provided unprecedented resources to help folks like yourselves do their jobs.

Since 2001, we've more than tripled spending on homeland security; we've increased funding more than tenfold for the first-responders who protect our homeland. Law enforcement officers stand between our people and great danger, and we're making sure you have the tools necessary to do your job.

We've also improved our ability to track terrorists inside the United States. A vital part of that effort is called the USA PATRIOT Act. The PATRIOT Act closed dangerous gaps in America's law enforcement and intelligence capabilities, gaps the terrorists exploited when they attacked us on September the 11th. Both Houses of Congress passed the PATRIOT Act by overwhelming bipartisan majorities. Ninety-eight out of 100 United States Senators voted for the act. That's what we call bipartisanship. The PATRIOT Act was the clear, considered response of a nation at war, and I was proud to sign that piece of legislation.

Over the past 3½ years, America's law enforcement and intelligence personnel have proved that the PATRIOT Act works, that it was an important piece of legislation. Since September the 11th, Federal terrorism investigations have resulted in charges against more than 400 suspects, and more than half of those charged have been convicted. Federal, State, and local law enforcement have used the PATRIOT Act to break up terror cells in New York and Oregon and Virginia and in Florida. We prosecuted terrorist operatives and supporters in California, in Texas, in New Jersey, in Illinois, and North Carolina and Ohio. These efforts have not always made the headlines, but they've made communities safer. The PATRIOT Act has accomplished exactly what it was designed to do: It has protected American liberty and saved American lives.

The problem is, at the end of this year, 16 critical provisions of the PATRIOT Act are scheduled to expire. Some people call these "sunset provisions." That's a good name, because letting that—those provisions expire would leave law enforcement in the dark. All 16 provisions are practical, important, and they are constitutional. Congress needs to renew them all, and this time, Congress needs to make the provisions permanent.

We need to renew the PATRIOT Act because it strengthens our national security in four important ways. First, we need to renew the critical provisions of the PATRIOT Act that authorize better sharing of information between law enforcement and intelligence. Before the PATRIOT Act, criminal investiga-

tors were separated from intelligence officers by a legal and bureaucratic wall. A Federal prosecutor who investigated Usama bin Laden in the 1990s explained the challenge this way: "We could talk to citizens, local police officers, foreign police officers; we could even talk to Al Qaida members. But there was one group of people we were not permitted to talk to the FBI agents across the street from us assigned to parallel intelligence investigations of Usama Bin Laden and Al Qaida. That was a wall."

Finding our enemies in the war on terror is tough enough; law enforcement officers should not be denied vital information their own colleagues already have. The PATRIOT Act helped tear down this wall, and now law enforcement and intelligence officers are sharing information and working together and bringing terrorists to justice.

In many terrorism cases, information sharing has made the difference between success and failure. And you have an example right here in Columbus, Ohio. Two years ago, a truck driver was charged with providing support to Al Qaida. His capture came after an investigation that relied on the PATRIOT Act and on contributions from more than a dozen agencies in the Southern Ohio Joint Terrorism Task Force. And members of that task force are with us today. I want to thank you for your contribution to the safety of America, and you'll understand this story I'm about to tell.

For several years, Iman Farris posed as a law-abiding resident of Columbus. But in 2000, he traveled to Afghanistan and met Usama bin Laden at an Al Qaida training camp. Farris helped the terrorists research airplanes and handle cash and purchase supplies. In 2002, he met Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the September the 11th attacks, and he agreed to take part in an Al Qaida plot to destroy a New York City bridge.

After Farris returned to the United States, Federal investigators used the PATRIOT Act to follow his trail. They used new information-sharing provisions to piece together details about his time in Afghanistan and his plan to launch an attack on the United States. They used the PATRIOT Act to discover that Farris had cased possible targets in New York

and that he'd reported his findings to Al Qaida. In the spring of 2003, the FBI confronted Farris and presented the case they had built against him. The case against him was so strong that Farris chose to cooperate, and he spent the next several weeks telling authorities about his Al Qaida association. Farris pled guilty to the charges against him. And today, instead of planning terror attacks against the American people, Iman Farris is sitting in an American prison.

The agents and prosecutors who used the PATRIOT Act to put Farris behind bars did superb work, and they know what a difference information sharing made. Here is what one FBI agent said—he said, “The Farris case would not have happened without sharing information.” That information sharing was made possible by the PATRIOT Act. Another investigator on the case said, “We never would have had the lead to begin with.” You have proved that good teamwork is critical in protecting America. For the sake of our national security, Congress must not rebuild a wall between law enforcement and intelligence.

Second, we need to renew the critical provisions of the PATRIOT Act that allow investigators to use the same tools against terrorists that they already use against other criminals. Before the PATRIOT Act, it was easier to track the phone contacts of a drug dealer than the phone contacts of an enemy operative. Before the PATRIOT Act, it was easier to get the credit card receipts of a tax cheat than an Al Qaida bankroller. Before the PATRIOT Act, agents could use wiretaps to investigate a person committing mail fraud but not to investigate a foreign terrorist. The PATRIOT Act corrected all these pointless double standards, and America is safer as a result.

One tool that has been especially important to law enforcement is called a roving wiretap. Roving wiretaps allow investigators to follow suspects who frequently change their means of communications. These wiretaps must be approved by a judge, and they have been used for years to catch drug dealers and other criminals. Yet, before the PATRIOT Act, agents investigating terrorists had to get a separate authorization for each phone they wanted to tap. That means terror-

ists could elude law enforcement by simply purchasing a new cell phone. The PATRIOT Act fixed the problem by allowing terrorism investigators to use the same wiretaps that were already being used against drug kingpins and mob bosses. The theory here is straightforward: If we have good tools to fight street crime and fraud, law enforcement should have the same tools to fight terrorism.

Third, we need to renew the critical provisions of the PATRIOT Act that updated the law to meet high-tech threats like computer espionage and cyberterrorism. Before the PATRIOT Act, Internet providers who notified Federal authorities about threatening e-mails ran the risk of getting sued. The PATRIOT Act modernized the law to protect Internet companies who voluntarily disclose information to save lives.

It's commonsense reform, and it's delivered results. In April 2004, a man sent an e-mail to an Islamic center in El Paso and threatened to burn the mosque to the ground in 3 days. Before the PATRIOT Act, the FBI could have spent a week or more waiting for the information they needed. Thanks to the PATRIOT Act, an Internet provider was able to provide the information quickly and without fear of a lawsuit, and the FBI arrested the man before he could fulfill his threat.

Terrorists are using every advantage they can to inflict harm. Terrorists are using every advantage of 21st century technology, and Congress needs to ensure that our law enforcement can use that same advantage as well.

Finally, we need to renew the critical provisions of the PATRIOT Act that protect our civil liberties. The PATRIOT Act was written with clear safeguards to ensure the law is applied fairly. The judicial branch has a strong oversight role. Law enforcement officers need a Federal judge's permission to wiretap a foreign terrorist's phone, a Federal judge's permission to track his calls, or a Federal judge's permission to search his property. Officers must meet strict standards to use any of these tools, and these standards are fully consistent with the Constitution of the United States.

Congress also oversees the application of the PATRIOT Act. Congress has recently created a Federal board to ensure that the

PATRIOT Act and other laws respect privacy and civil liberties, and I'll soon name five talented Americans to serve on that board. Attorney General Gonzales delivers regular reports on the PATRIOT Act to the House and the Senate. And the Department of Justice has answered hundreds of questions from Members of Congress. One Senator, Dianne Feinstein of California, has worked with civil rights groups to monitor my administration's use of the PATRIOT Act. Here's what she said, "We've scrubbed the area, and I have no reported abuses." Remember that the next time you hear someone make an unfair criticism of this important, good law. The PATRIOT Act has not diminished American liberties; the PATRIOT Act has helped to defend American liberties.

Every day the men and women of law enforcement use the PATRIOT Act to keep America safe. It's the nature of your job that many of your most important achievements must remain secret. Americans will always be grateful for the risks you take and for the determination you bring to this high calling—you have done your job. Now those of us in Washington have to do our job. The House and Senate are moving forward with the process to renew the PATRIOT Act. My message to Congress is clear: The terrorist threats against us will not expire at the end of the year, and neither should the protections of the PATRIOT Act.

I want to thank you for letting me come and talk about this important piece of legislation. I want to thank you for being on the frontlines of securing this country. May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless our Nation. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio; Kenneth L. Morckel, director, Ohio Department of Public Safety; Col. Paul D. McClellan, superintendent, Ohio State Highway Patrol; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Judges for the United States Court of Appeals

June 9, 2005

I am pleased that the Senate voted today to confirm three distinguished and highly qualified judges to the United States Court of Appeals: Judge Bill Pryor, Judge Richard Griffin, and Judge David McKeague.

More than a year ago, I recess appointed Judge Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit to fill a vacancy that had been designated a judicial emergency by the Judicial Conference of the United States. Judge Pryor's recent service on the Eleventh Circuit has built on an impressive career of public service in which he has applied the law fairly and impartially to all people. I commend the Senate for fulfilling its constitutional responsibility to vote on Judge Pryor and for confirming him so that he will continue his service on this court.

Both Judge Griffin and Judge McKeague have served on the Michigan courts for more than a decade, during which time each has demonstrated a strong commitment to the rule of law. Both are well qualified to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and will fill vacancies that have been designated judicial emergencies by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

These three nominees have waited a combined total of over 8 years for their votes. I applaud the Senate for today giving these fine nominees the up-or-down votes they deserve.

Videotape Remarks to the People of Africa

June 8, 2005

For the past several years, the United States has worked with African leaders on bold initiatives to encourage reform within the continent. Our goal is to improve the lives of the African people, and our partnership is yielding results. The economies of